

WO 00/18144

PCT/FI99/00788

12

CLAIMS

1. Method for transmitting the status data of an answering service comprised in a local exchange in a telecommunication system comprising a local exchange (LE), an answering service (1) connected to the local exchange, an access node (AN) connected to the local exchange, a wireless communication system (WLL) connected to the access node and a telecommunication terminal (MS) connected via the wireless communication system to the access node, characterised in that a port-specific connection is set up from the access node (AN) to the local exchange (LE), the status of the answering service (1) is verified in the access node (AN) and, based on the status of the answering service (1), an announcement is sent from the access node (AN) to the telecommunication terminal (MS).

2. Method as defined in claim 1, characterised in that the port-specific connection is set up by opening an audio channel from the access node (AN) to the local exchange (LE).

3. Method as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the status of the answering service (1) is verified on the basis of a signal tone given by the local exchange (LE).

4. Method as defined in any one of claims 1 - 3, characterised in that an announcement regarding a message received in the answering service (1) is sent to the telecommunication terminal (MS).

5. Method as defined in any one of claims 1 - 4, characterised in that the announcement to the telecommunication terminal (MS) is sent in the form of a short message (SMS).

6. Method as defined in any one of claims 1 - 5, characterised in that the status of the answering service (1) is verified at predetermined points of time.

SEARCHED INDEXED
DOCUMENT CODED
FILEDS
Sub
A1

WO 00/18144

PCT/FI99/00788

13

7. Method as defined in any one of claims 1 - 6, characterised in that the status of the answering service (1) is verified in conjunction with a call event on the telecommunication terminal (MS).

5 8. System for transmitting the status data of an answering service comprised in a local exchange in a telecommunication system comprising a local exchange (LE), an answering service (1) connected to the local exchange, an access node (AN) connected to the local exchange, a wireless communication system (WLL) connected to the access node and a telecommunication terminal (MS) connected via the wireless communication system to the access node, characterised in that the access node (AN) comprises means (2) for setting up a port-specific connection to the local exchange (LE), means (3) for verifying the status of the answering service (1) and means (4) for sending an announcement to the telecommunication terminal (MS) on the basis of the status of the answering service (1).

10 15 20 9. System as defined in any one of claims 8, characterised in that the access node (AN) comprises means (2) for setting up a port-specific connection to the local exchange (LE) by opening an audio channel from the access node (AN) to the local exchange (LE).

25 10. System as defined in claim 8 or 9, characterised in that the access node (AN) comprises means (3) for verifying the status of the answering service (1) on the basis of a signal tone.

30 11. System as defined in any one of claims 8 - 10, characterised in that the access node (AN) comprises means (4) for sending to the telecommunication terminal (MS) an announcement indicating that a message has been received in the answering service (1).

35 12. System as defined in any one of claims 8 - 11, characterised in that the access node

T-008 S.15/28 F-966

WO 00/18144

PCT/FI99/00788

14

(AN) comprises means (4) for sending to the telecommunication terminal (MS) an announcement in the form of a short message (SMS).

5 13. System as defined in any one of claims 8 - 12, characterised in that the system comprises means (5) verifying the status of the answering service (1) at predetermined points of time.

10 14. System as defined in any one of claims 8 - 13, characterised in that the system comprises means (6) for verifying the status of the answering service in conjunction with a call event on the telecommunication terminal (MS).

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